

that. Rather, it unleashes and unharnesses the potential of what this country can accomplish to eliminate the ravages of these diseases and the effects they impose upon humanity.

STEM-CELL RESEARCH

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a father, a physician and a Congressman to express my deep concern over the administration's decision to allow taxpayer dollars to incentivize the destruction of human embryos.

For the first time in our country's history, the Federal Government is going to encourage the destruction of human embryos. Newer techniques for making embryonic-like cells without destroying any embryos and advances in adult stem-cell umbilical cord blood treatments are showing that the use of embryos for stem-cell research is becoming obsolete.

Over 73 different diseases have been treated, at least experimentally, with adult or cord blood stem cells, including type I diabetes and heart disease.

Because of recent steps by our President, pro-life taxpayers are now footing the bill for the promotion of abortions overseas, doctors are in danger of being forced to perform abortions regardless of moral or religious objections, and now taxpayer funds are going to support the destruction of human embryos in the name of research.

Embryonic stem-cell research provides no guarantee of scientific advancement, but it does guarantee the innocent unborn have lost a critical battle.

STEM-CELL RESEARCH

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, we will never know how many millions of people around the world have suffered debilitating, shorter lives from Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, multiple sclerosis, and a host of other illnesses and diseases as a result of President Bush's decision to severely restrict stem-cell research.

But we do know that human civilization has only progressed when its leaders had the courage to resist religious, political and economic dogma in pursuit of truth and scientific discovery. Science and medical research offers us all an opportunity to reduce human suffering and advance human potential. I believe that is God's will.

President Obama did the right thing in reversing that anti-science presidential directive, but now it is up to the Congress to reverse the existing Congressional restriction on Federal funding of stem-cell research.

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D.C. OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the Senate passed the \$410 billion omnibus spending bill last night containing some 9,000 special interest earmarks. Sadly, it included a provision that will effectively kill a popular and successful program here in our Nation's Capital that provides a ray of hope for the children it serves.

The D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program provides low-income families with a voucher they can use to attend the school of their choice. For many students, this provides the opportunity to get out of dangerous and failing public schools into private schools that provide them with a safe environment and a quality education.

This program is under attack by politicians in Congress, many of whom send their own children to private schools. If school choice is good enough for their kids, why not school choice for everyone?

I urge the President, who has chosen private school for his own children, to veto this special interest, pork-laden bill and work with Congress toward meaningful education reform.

TRAGEDY IN ALABAMA

(Mr. BRIGHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, as many of you have heard, a tragic shooting occurred yesterday in Geneva and Coffee Counties in Alabama. Without question, this is one of the worst tragedies our State and our Nation has seen in quite some time. My thoughts and prayers are with the families of the victims, and with the entire Wiregrass community in southeast Alabama.

The details are still being confirmed, but I do know that our community owes a debt of gratitude to the local law enforcement officials who bravely put themselves in the line of fire. Without their swift actions and courage, the tragedy could have been even worse than it was yesterday.

I will be returning to my district later today to assist local leaders and law enforcement officials in any way that I can and to be with my constituents as we mourn the loss of friends and neighbors.

I ask that all of my colleagues here in the House and people watching right now from around the country keep the people of southeast Alabama in your thoughts and prayers.

ECONOMIC ENGINE DOESN'T RUN ON PORK

(Mr. BROUN of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, hardworking Americans are the eco-

nomic engine that drives this great Nation. And America's economic engine doesn't run on pork.

Even though we are in a recession, Congress continues to take hard-earned tax dollars and send them toward pork projects like tattoo removal, Mormon crickets, and studying pig manure. In fact, the omnibus bill sent to the White House last night contains nearly 8,000 earmarks, costing taxpayers more than \$11 billion.

Monday night I had a telephone town hall with my constituents back home in Georgia. One caller, Mr. John Ahern from Athens, hit the nail on the head with his question on spending: "Why aren't politicians held accountable like families and taxpayers?"

Why indeed? There are Members on both sides of the aisle that are so used to the spending of yesterday that they cannot bear the thought of tightening their belts today. How are we going to justify picking the pockets of taxpayers to literally pay for pig poop?

This bill spends too much, taxes too much, and borrows too much. I urge a veto of the ominous omnibus bill and its 8,000 earmarks. There are John Aherns all over this country who demand accountability in government. A veto would give it to them.

STEM-CELL EXECUTIVE ORDER

(Mr. LANGEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I recently had the distinct honor and privilege of witnessing an historic and defining moment in our Nation's history, one that I believe will fundamentally alter the course of science and medicine in the same manner as did the discovery of the first vaccine or X-ray or other significant scientific and medical discoveries in this country.

On Monday, President Obama signed an executive order lifting the ban on the Federal funding of embryonic stem cell research. As someone who has lived with a spinal cord injury for over 28 years, I have always held onto the hope that one day I might walk again.

But this executive order is not about me or even about spinal cord injuries. It is about the millions of people living with chronic and disabling diseases, illnesses, and conditions for which this research may one day hold the promise of new treatments and cures. It is about responsible investment into sciences and technologies that will ensure our Nation's continued economic competitiveness into the 21st century.

There is still much work to be done, and I look forward to working with my congressional colleagues on this issue to ensure that responsible policies based on sound science are enacted.

This is truly an historic event.

AMERICANS NEED OBJECTIVE REPORTING

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)